

1275/190

## Version with markings to show changes made

2. (once amended) A method of providing an iron oxide complex for administration to a mammalian subject, the method [~~comprising~~] consisting of:

producing a carboxyalkylated reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex; and  
sterilizing the complex by autoclaving.

7. (once amended) A method according to claim [6] 1, wherein [~~the carboxyalkylation is a carboxymethylation~~] producing the complex includes carboxyalkylating a reduced polysaccharide by carboxymethylation.

10. (once amended) A method according to claim [5] 1, wherein the [~~derivatized~~] carboxyalkylated, reduced polysaccharide isolated as [~~the~~] a sodium salt does not contain an infrared absorption peak in the region of about  $1650\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to about  $1800\text{ cm}^{-1}$ .

11. (once amended) A method according to claim [5] 1, wherein producing the [~~derivatized~~] carboxyalkylated reduced polysaccharide is achieved at a temperature of less than about  $50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

12. (once amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein producing the ~~[derivatized]~~ carboxyalkylated reduced polysaccharide is achieved at a temperature of less than about 40 °C.
13. (amended) A method according to claim ~~[5]~~ 1, wherein the iron oxide is superparamagnetic
18. (amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex produced according to the method of claim 1, wherein the produced ~~[such]~~ complex ~~[being]~~ is stable at a temperature of at least 100 °C.
19. (once amended) A reduced carboxyalkylated polysaccharide iron oxide complex ~~[according to claim 18, such]~~ wherein the produced complex ~~[being]~~ is stable at a temperature of about 121 °C.
20. (once amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 19, ~~[such]~~ wherein the produced complex ~~[being]~~ is stable at a temperature of at least about 121 °C for a period of time effective to sterilize the complex.
22. (once amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim ~~[21]~~ 20, wherein the ~~[derivatized]~~ carboxyalkylated reduced polysaccharide is selected

from the group consisting of a [~~carboxyalkyl~~] carboxymethyl, carboxyethyl and carboxypropyl reduced polysaccharide.

24. (once amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim ~~[23]~~ 22, wherein the reduced polysaccharide is a reduced dextran.

25. (once amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron complex according to claim 22, wherein the [~~derivatized~~] carboxyalkylated reduced dextran is a carboxymethyl reduced dextran.

26. (twice amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 24, wherein [~~the amount of derivatization of~~] the carboxyalkylated reduced dextran [~~is~~] comprises at least about 750 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide.

27. (twice amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 26, wherein [~~the level of derivatization of~~] the carboxyalkylated reduced dextran [~~is~~] comprises at least about 900 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide.

28. (twice amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 27, wherein [~~the amount of derivatization of~~] the carboxyalkylated reduced dextran [~~is~~] comprises at least about [1,100] 1100 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide.

29. (twice amended) A reduced polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim [26] 28, wherein ~~[the amount of derivatization of]~~ the carboxyalkylated reduced dextran ~~[is] comprises [at least] less than~~ about 1500 micromole of carboxyl groups per gram of polysaccharide~~[, wherein said complex remains a colloidal suspension without substantial aggregation]~~ wherein said complex does not form substantial particulates.

53. (once amended) A method of providing a contrast agent for in vivo MRI of a subject according to claim 1, ~~[comprising]~~ consisting of the steps of:

formulating a composition which is a carboxymethylated reduced ~~[coated]~~ ultrasmall superparamagnetic iron oxide ~~[colloid]~~ complex; and  
terminally sterilizing the composition by autoclaving.

54. (once amended) A method of providing a hematinic agent for treating a subject deficient in iron according to claim 1, ~~[comprising]~~ consisting of the steps of:

formulating a composition which is a carboxymethylated reduced ~~[coated]~~ ultrasmall iron oxide ~~[colloid]~~ complex; and  
terminally sterilizing the composition by autoclaving.

64. (once amended) A reduced ~~[derivatized]~~ carboxyalkylated polysaccharide iron oxide complex which is stable at a temperature of about 121 °C, wherein ~~[the]~~ a sodium salt of the complex does not contain an infrared absorption peak in the region of about 1650  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to about 1800  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

66. (once amended) A reduced [~~derivatized~~] carboxyalkylated polysaccharide iron oxide complex according to claim 64, wherein the polysaccharide is [~~carboxyalkylated~~] carboxymethylated.

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